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REMARKS

This paper is responsive to a Final Office Action dated May 27, 2004. Claims 1-37 were examined. Claims 1-5, 8-16, 31, 32, 35, and 36-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,218,602 to Grant. Claims 17, 33, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grant in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,553,027 to Lam. Claims 18, 19, 22, 27 and 30-36 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grant in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,122,274 to Kumar. Claims 23 and 24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Grant and Kumar and further in view of Lam. Applicants appreciate the indication that claim 7 is allowed and that claims 6, 20, 21, 25, 26, 28 and 29 contain allowable subject matter.

With regards to independent claim 1, Applicants respectfully maintain that Grant, alone or in combination with other references of record, fails to teach or suggest that

for a particular transfer, the arbitration logic is coupled to receive an indication from a particular target node for the particular transfer as to whether the particular transfer can be supported in the particular target node.

The Office action relies on col. 10, last paragraph through col. 11, first paragraph, as teaching that limitation. Applicants respectfully disagree. Grant teaches at col. 5, lines 3-7 that switching matrix (SM) 80 establishes a connection between a source CP 72 and a destination CP 72. At col. 10, last paragraph through col. 11, first paragraph Grant recites:

CC 98 receives service requests from RB's 90 via CC service request links 118 and request selector 151. In the embodiment described herein, CC 98 may process one new service request every 50 ns. Each RB 90 may deliver one new service request to CC 98 every 100 ns. Because each CC 98 controls 3 RB's 90, the maximum rate at which the 3 RB's 90 can deliver requests is greater than the rate at which CC 98 can process them. Thus, RB's 90 contend for processing by CC 98. Request selector 151 examines each of CC service request links 118 on a rotating priority basis, and places, at most, one new request into new request queue 155 every 50 ns. Request selector 151 uses a READY line, which is part of CC service request link 118, to control the flow of incoming service requests, by asserting the

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READY line when it is able to receive a new request. RB 90 uses the status of the READY line to set a request acknowledge bit going back to GC 88 on RB service acknowledge link 114.

CC 98 operates with two queues, new request queue 155 and holdover queue 157, in which pending requests are stored and which are organized as FIFO buffers. A connection state controller 156 reads the queues to make connections for a new packet frame.

That portion of Grant teaches how the connection controller (CC) requests and services the flow of incoming service requests. That portion of Grant also teaches operating a request queue and a holdover queue. But that portion of Grant does not teach, that the *arbitration logic is coupled to receive an indication from a particular target node for the particular transfer as to whether the particular transfer can be supported in the particular target node*, as claimed. Grant describes at col. 6, lines 29-56 and in Fig. 5, the pipelined operations of switching network (SN) 10. As described therein, path acknowledgements are sent as well as release acknowledgements, but none of the acknowledgement taught by Grant teach *arbitration logic is coupled to receive an indication from a particular target node for the particular transfer as to whether the particular transfer can be supported in the particular target node*. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 and all claims dependent thereon, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

With regards to dependent claim 4, the Office action on page 4, paragraph 5, relies on Grant's teaching that the "[p]acket transfers occur within fixed intervals with respect to a packet frame", col. 5, lines 63-65, to teach that the pipeline stages have equal length. However, Applicants respectfully submit that fixed intervals is not the same as the pipeline stages having equal length, as claimed. Thus, applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 is not anticipated by Grant.

With regards to dependent claim 5, the Office action on page 4, paragraph 6, relies on col. 10, last paragraph through col. 11, first paragraph, as teaching a check stage in which the initiator node checks if transmission of a sent packet was successful. However that portion of Grant teaches that the connection controller (CC) receives requests and teaches aspects related to control of the flow of incoming service requests. That portion of Grant also teaches operating a request queue and a holdover queue. But that portion of Grant does not teach *a check stage in*

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which an initiator node checks if transmission of a sent packet was successful. For at least that reason Applicants submit that claim 5 is not anticipated by Grant.

With regards to independent claim 18, Applicants respectfully maintain that Grant, alone or in combination Kumar and other references of record, fails to teach or suggest *the arbitration logic communicating with the target node to determine if the target node can accept a packet from the initiator node.*

The Office action relies on col. 10, last paragraph through col. 11, first paragraph, as teaching that limitation. Applicants respectfully disagree. That portion of Grant teaches how the connection controller (CC) receives and services the flow of incoming service requests. That portion of Grant also teaches operating a request queue and a holdover queue. But that portion of Grant does not teach, *the arbitration logic communicating with the target node to determine if the target node can accept a packet from the initiator node*, as claimed. For at least that reason Applicants submit that claim 18 is allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 18 and all claims dependent thereon, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

With regards to claim 31, Applicants respectfully maintain that Grant, alone or in combination with other references of record, fails to teach or suggest that

during the arbitration stage, an initiator node requests a path through the network a target node and arbitration logic communicates with a target node to determine if the target node can accept a packet from an initiator node.

The Office action relies on col. 10, last paragraph through col. 11, first paragraph, as teaching that limitation. Applicants respectfully disagree. That portion of Grant teaches how the connection controller (CC) receives and services the flow of incoming service requests. That portion of Grant also teaches operating a request queue and a holdover queue. But that portion of Grant does not teach, *that arbitration logic communicates with a target node to determine if the target node can accept a packet from an initiator node*, as claimed. For at least that reason Applicants submit that claim 31 is allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants

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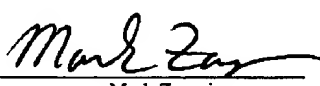
respectfully request that the rejection of claim 31 and all claims dependent thereon, be reconsidered and withdrawn.

With regards to independent claim 37, Applicants respectfully maintain that the art of record fails to teach or suggest

means for communicating with the target node during an individual one of the pipeline stages to determine if the target node can accept a packet from the initiator node.

as recited by claim 37. As pointed out above, Grant, alone or combined with the other references of record fail to communicating with the target node to determine if the target node can accept a packet from the initiator node. For at least that reason amended claim 37 is allowable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 37, be withdrawn.

In summary, claims 1-37 are in the case. All claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. Nonetheless, if any issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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